

years. The principle of pay-as-you-go played an instrumental role in creating the budget surpluses of the 1990s. Unfortunately, those commonsense principles were rejected by the Bush administration, and helped lead to the record deficit that our country must now address.

And, third, President Obama is expected to propose mandatory, across-the-board spending cuts to offset any new initiative that expands the government's red ink.

Mr. Speaker, these reforms will help us cut the budget deficit in half over the next 5 years, which is not bad, considering what we inherited from our Republican friends.

#### **ALICE IN WONDERLAND WORLD OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETING**

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, welcome to the Alice in Wonderland world of congressional budgeting, a place where Congress calls for fiscal responsibility, but then spends well beyond our means, even as the budget deficit grows to over \$1.4 trillion.

We're all too familiar with the litany of the spending that's already occurred this session; \$350 billion for the TARP bailout, \$787 billion for the pork-filled stimulus bill, and this week, right after the so-called fiscal responsibility summit, Congressional leaders will bring up a giant omnibus spending bill that will spend another \$410 billion, an 8 percent increase over funding from last year, and has over 9,000 earmarks. My constituents aren't seeing an 8 percent increase in their paychecks.

The nonpartisan Brookings Institution also cited recently, and I quote, "these are just not deficits as far as the eye can see, but they're trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see."

Mr. Speaker we're making sacrifices every day. Congress should continue to do the same.

#### **CHRYSLER PLANT'S FUTURE IN FENTON, MISSOURI**

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, Chrysler Corporation has a proud history of producing cars, trucks and vans in the Fenton, Missouri, plant. The workers there helped Chrysler survive its darkest hours in the 1980s, and helped it thrive during the 1990s and 2000s.

The U.S. Government has stepped in to help our American automakers survive and to protect American jobs. I was truly disappointed to read in the St. Louis Post Dispatch that the Fenton, Missouri, plant may be at risk under Chrysler's viability plan. By almost every measure, the Fenton, Mis-

souri, plant has the key ingredients to be part of the survival and success of Chrysler.

The workforce at the plant is among the most productive in the industry, and the plant itself has had a half billion dollars invested in it for flexible manufacturing to give it the ability to build the cars of the future today. The manufacturing technology reduces the carbon footprint, and provides long-term savings and energy use. This state-of-the-art plant and its record-setting workers are the example of what can help the industry and Chrysler survive and thrive in the future.

#### **MAKING QUALITY CARE ACCESSIBLE TO PATIENTS**

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama is expected to unveil some of his health care reform, and I hope to work with the President to lower costs for American families and make health care more accessible without dramatically raising taxes.

Some of my Democratic colleagues advocate for government-run universal health coverage, but coverage alone does not guarantee access. Too many rural communities currently lack doctors, and Medicare payment cuts and frivolous lawsuits have driven providers out of business in underserved communities.

Health care reform should be based on three basic principles, information, choice and control. Information that provides real information to patients and doctors, choice that allows freedom of choice to choose a doctor and develop a doctor/patient relationship, and control, which creates real portability for families.

Working together, I believe we can achieve real results and make health care much more affordable and accessible. We all agree that our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. And that's why we need to work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

#### **BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE**

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 8 years, the Bush administration turned our budget situation from rosy to grim. President Bush and the Republican Congress pushed their economic policies as an answer to the prolonged growth that never came. They let budget rules lapse and enacted expensive tax cuts for the wealthiest few, with no offsets.

Now it turns out, instead of spurring long-term growth, these trickle-down policies have cost our Nation dearly.

Our economy nationwide and in my home State of New Jersey is in worse shape than ever.

As a result of the economic deterioration that occurred under President Bush's policy, the projected deficit for fiscal year 2009 has reached an unprecedented \$1.2 trillion. This deficit did not arise overnight, and out of the blue. President Bush inherited a healthy \$5.6 trillion surplus.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we need to bring our country back to fiscal responsibility.

#### **ACT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLY AND IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER**

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago this body spent over \$1 trillion of taxpayer dollars on programs that will grow the size of government, but won't stimulate the economy to help us get out of this financial crisis.

Consumer confidence remains low, and fear of the future remains, as evidenced by the lowest Dow since 1997.

Last week I held two town hall meetings in my district in Northwest Louisiana. In both meetings, the feelings were the same. People are scared and they are angry. They are looking for solutions. Instead we give them wasteful spending and social programs funded with one-time money. Now we hear of a plan to finance this with taxes on the back of small businesses and on the taxpayers themselves.

To help this economy, we must allow business to expedite depreciation schedules, eliminate capital gains taxes and reduce payroll deductions and dedicate dollars to infrastructure projects, including I-49 in Louisiana.

As we move to consider the half trillion dollar omnibus, I urge my colleagues to act fiscally responsible and in a bipartisan manner.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. I rise today to urge my colleagues, our leadership, Speaker PELOSI, President Obama, to work with CHC on comprehensive immigration reform.

Two weeks ago this legislative body passed a significant bill that will help our devastated economy. We cannot forget the other gaping wound here, our broken immigration system. We are making a big mistake if we continue to ignore the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants who are part of this economy. This is not something that we should sweep under the rug with more unrealistic enforcement-only fixes to the immigration system. Enforcement-only approaches makes the situation worse by generating an underground economy and encouraging